

Message Text

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12

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8679

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POUCHED INFO ALL CANADIAN CONSULATES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, CA

SUBJ: OFFICIAL CANADIAN REACTION TO U.S. CONGRESS

LEGISLATION ON 200-MILE LIMIT

THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE IN THE CANADIAN HOUSE
OF COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD JANUARY 30:

BEGIN QUOTE:

MR. JAMES MCGRATH (ST. JOHN'S EAST): MR. SPEAKER, MAY I
ADDRESS A QUESTION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS? IT IS PROMPTED BY THE FACT THAT AT THIS MOMENT
THERE IS A MEETING TAKING PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES
BETWEEN A DELEGATION FROM THIS PARLIAMENT AND MEMBERS
OF THE US CONGRESS AND THAT ONE OF THE SUBJECTS BEING
DISCUSSED IS THE 200- MILE LIMIT. IN VIEW OF THE PASSAGE
THROUGH THE US SENATE THIS WEEK OF LEGISLATION DECLARING
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THE INTENTION OF THE US TO IMPOSE A 200-MILE LIMIT,

MAKING IT, NOW, A RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES OF THE US LEGISLATURE, MAY I ASK THE MINISTER WHETHER HE INTENDS TO PRESENT A SIMILAR RESOLUTION TO THIS HOUSE BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, A MOVE WHICH WOULD CONSIDERABLY STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION.

HON. ALLAN J. MACEACHEN (SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS): I AM FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ENFORCEMENT PROPOSED IN THE US LEGISLATION IS THE MIDDLE OF 1977. YET TO BE CLARIFIED IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE JOINT EFFORT IS MADE BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE SENATE TO RECONCILE THEIR LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS. AS FAR AS CANADA IS CONCERNED WE ARE NOT OBLIGED TO ENACT LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO GIVE EFFECT TO A 200-MILE LIMIT AS IS THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE UNDER PRESENT LEGISLATION ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS NOTICE OF 60 DAYS TO GIVE EFFECT TO SUCH A PROPOSAL. THERE IS CERTAINLY A QUESTION MARK IN MY MIND AS TO WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY ADVANTAGE TO CANADA IN MOVING AT THIS POINT IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROJECTED DATE OF EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF A 200-MILE LIMIT BY THE US, THE MIDDLE OF 1977. I CAN ASSURE THE HON. MEMBER, HOWEVER, THAT CANADA, WHILE IT PREFERS THE NEGOTIATIVE ROUTE, WOULD ACT AT ANY TIME IN ORDER TO PROTECT CANADIAN NATIONAL INTERESTS.

END QUOTE
JOHNSON

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